

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 17180 101908Z
ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3986
INFO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO

UNCLAS PARIS 17180

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CGEN, PDIP, MA, CN, FR
SUBJECT: EMBASSY ANTANANARIVO CONSULAR DISTRICT

REF: (A) STATE 131039; (B) ANTANANARIVO 0925

1. GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE HAS LONG BEEN AWARE THAT OUR FOREIGN AFFAIRS MANUAL LISTS CERTAIN FRENCH OVERSEAS TERRITORIES AS BEING WITHIN THE CONSULAR DISTRICT OF POSTS LOCATED IN THIRD COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, GOF HAS LONG HELD TO THE POSITION THAT CONSULAR JURISDICTION IN AREAS WHERE FRANCE IS SOVEREIGN CAN ONLY BE EXERCISED FROM METROPOLITAN FRANCE OR FROM POSTS IN FRENCH OVERSEAS DEPARTMENTS OR TERRITORIES.

2. WE HAVE HAD THIS PROBLEM, FOR EXAMPLE, IN TAHITI, WHICH IS IN SUVA'S CONSULAR DISTRICT, AND FORMERLY IN DJIBOUTI, WHICH USED TO BE IN ADDIS ABABA'S CONSULAR DISTRICT. THUS IN ANSWER TO THE QUESTION POSED IN PARA 3-A OF REF B, FRENCH AUTHORITIES HAVE NEVER TO OUR KNOWLEDGE ACKNOWLEDGED ANTANANARIVO'S CONSULAR JURISDICTION OVER REUNION.

3. WITH RESPECT TO PARA 3-B OF REF B, WE ASSUME ANTANANARIVO WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE VISA SERVICES FOR THE FRENCH TERRITORIES NOMINALLY WITHIN THEIR CONSULAR
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DISTRICT.

4. AS FOR PROTECTION AND WELFARE SERVICES, WE CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT THE SAME PROCEDURES WOULD HAVE TO BE FOLLOWED AS HAS BEEN THE CASE IN OTHER FRENCH TERRITORIES, NOTABLY TAHITI. THE MOST RECENT EXAMPLE IS THAT OF TWO AMERICANS WHO HAVE BEEN IMPRISONED IN TAHITI FOR

SOME TIME. EMBASSY PARIS, THROUGH THE FRENCH FOREIGN OFFICE, ARRANGED FOR A CONSULAR OFFICER FROM SUVA TO VISIT THEM. THE FOREIGN OFFICE, IN TURN, HAD TO GET PERMISSION FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR OVERSEAS DEPARTMENTS AND TERRITORIES (DOMTOM).

5. IF ANTANANARIVO FINDS THAT THERE IS AN IMPORTANT PROTECTION AND WELFARE CASE IN THE FRENCH TERRITORIES WITHIN THEIR CONSULAR DISTRICT, WE SUGGEST THEY CABLE PARIS AND WE WILL SEEK TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FOR A CONSULAR VISIT.

6. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, WE HAVE SOME QUESTION AS TO THE PROPRIETY OF CHARACTERIZING A VISIT TO REUNION BY THE CHARGE AS "OFFICIAL".

GAMMON

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